

House File 315 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 315

BY WHEELER, SHEETS, and WATTS

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to the Iowa core curriculum and standards
- 2 for school districts and accredited nonpublic schools and
- 3 including effective date provisions.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

DIVISION I

COMMON CORE STANDARDS PROHIBITED

Section 1. NEW SECTION. **256.25 Common core standards prohibited.**

1. The state board shall terminate all plans, programs, activities, efforts, and expenditures relating to implementation of the educational initiative commonly referred to as the common core standards, or any derivative or permutation of that educational initiative including but not limited to the Iowa common core standards that have been enacted, adopted, or implemented by the general assembly, the state board, or the department, including but not limited to any assessments, data collection, and instructions based on or involving that educational initiative. To further protect state and local control of public education, the state board and the department are prohibited from adopting, aligning to, or implementing, any other national or multistate consortium standards from any source requiring the use of any assessments aligned with any other national or multistate consortium standards from any source, and, subject to section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph "b", subparagraph (1), the state board and the department shall do all of the following:

a. Respect and support the ultimate right of a parent to opt the parent's child out of public school, and out of any public school activity, practice, or testing that the parent finds unacceptable, with no negative repercussions to, or financial impact on, the child, parent, or school, and with no interference from this state. This paragraph shall not be construed to prohibit this state from funding public education on a per-pupil basis as provided in chapter 257.

b. (1) By January 1, 2018, for the school year beginning July 1, 2018, and each succeeding school year, adopt and implement state academic content standards for kindergarten through grade twelve in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies that are the same as the academic

1 standards in effect for the state of Massachusetts during
2 the academic year beginning July 1, 2008, except that any
3 reference in those standards to the state of Massachusetts
4 shall be changed to Iowa and any state history or government
5 content standards shall be changed to reflect the history
6 and government of Iowa. The department shall distribute the
7 standards to school districts and shall post the standards
8 on the department's internet site within ten days following
9 adoption of the state academic content standards pursuant to
10 this paragraph "b".

11 (2) Adopt by January 1, 2018, for the school year
12 beginning July 1, 2018, validated state assessments of student
13 achievement based on the assessment used in Massachusetts
14 during the 2008-2009 school year and aligned to the academic
15 standards in effect in Massachusetts during the 2008-2009
16 school year.

17 c. Take and direct the director and any other state public
18 employee or authority to take all steps necessary to terminate
19 areas of federal control of the Iowa educational process.
20 In so doing, the state board and the department shall be
21 prohibited from doing any of the following:

22 (1) Adopting or implementing any national or multistate
23 consortium standard from any source, or the use of any
24 assessments aligned with a national or multistate consortium
25 standard that cedes control of Iowa educational standards in
26 any manner, including but not limited to English language arts,
27 mathematics, science, social studies, history, or sexuality
28 standards or next generation science standards.

29 (2) Joining any consortium or any other organization if
30 participation in that consortium or organization would cede any
31 measure of control over any aspect of Iowa public education to
32 that consortium or organization.

33 d. (1) Adopt, at the discretion of the state board but
34 not earlier than five years after the adoption of standards as
35 required under paragraph "b", state academic content standards

1 for kindergarten through grade twelve to replace the English
2 language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies
3 content standards adopted under paragraph "b". The content
4 standards adopted under this paragraph "d" shall be developed
5 independently and not as part of a multistate consortium.
6 However, the content standards shall emphasize coherence,
7 focus, and essential knowledge, have evidence of successful
8 application and results, and may be administered using computer
9 technology. The department shall not implement content
10 standards adopted by the state board under this paragraph "d"
11 until all of the following conditions are met:

12 (a) The state board submits the content standards to the
13 general assembly.

14 (b) The general assembly's standing committees on education
15 hold a joint public hearing on the proposed content standards
16 and provide public notice of the public hearing at least ten
17 days prior to the public hearing.

18 (c) The content standards are specifically authorized by a
19 constitutional majority of each house of the general assembly
20 and approved by the governor.

21 (2) Adopt, following the adoption and implementation of
22 state academic content standards for kindergarten through
23 grade twelve in the manner specified in subparagraph (1),
24 assessments aligned with such content standards which shall
25 replace the assessments adopted under paragraph "b". Each
26 year, as soon as reasonably possible, the aggregated results
27 shall be available on the department's internet site for review
28 by the public. In collecting student achievement data in
29 order to post the results on the department's internet site
30 under this subparagraph, the department shall not collect data
31 about the values, attitudes, beliefs, and personality traits
32 of a student or the student's family or medical, behavioral,
33 mental, biometric, or psychometric data of a student or of the
34 student's family. The department shall not administer state
35 assessments under this subparagraph until all of the following

1 conditions are met:

2 (a) The department submits the proposed state assessments
3 to the general assembly.

4 (b) The general assembly's standing committees on education
5 hold a joint public hearing on the proposed state assessments
6 and provide public notice of the public hearing at least ten
7 days prior to the public hearing.

8 (c) The proposed state assessments are specifically
9 authorized by a constitutional majority of each house of the
10 general assembly and approved by the governor.

11 2. The board of directors of each school district,
12 considering the academic content standards adopted and
13 implemented under this section, shall do all of the following:

14 a. Establish a fundamental academic curriculum for students
15 enrolled in the school district in kindergarten through grade
16 twelve that defines academic objectives to be achieved by all
17 students and is based upon the school district's educational
18 mission, long-range student goals and student performance
19 objectives, and graduation requirements under section 256.7,
20 subsection 26. The fundamental academic curriculum may vary
21 from the state academic content standards adopted pursuant to
22 this section.

23 b. After consulting with the school district's teachers and
24 administrators, determine the aligned instructional program
25 for delivering the school district's fundamental academic
26 curriculum and identify the courses and programs in which the
27 fundamental academic curriculum will be taught.

28 c. Provide adequate time and transparency for public review
29 and comment on the aligned instructional programs by all
30 interested members of the community before final adoption of
31 the fundamental academic curriculum.

32 3. This state shall retain sole control over the
33 development, establishment, and revision of course of study
34 standards for kindergarten through grade twelve.

35 4. This section shall not be construed to promote any

1 religious or nonreligious doctrine, promote discrimination
 2 for or against a particular set of religious beliefs or
 3 nonbeliefs, or promote discrimination for or against religion
 4 or nonreligion.

5 5. This section does not require any school district to
 6 utilize all or any part of the academic content standards
 7 adopted under this section. The state board and the department
 8 shall not impose any financial consequence on a school district
 9 that adopts academic content standards differing from those
 10 adopted and implemented under this section.

11 DIVISION II

12 ELIMINATING COMMON CORE REFERENCES — PROVIDING FOR RELATED 13 MATTERS

14 Sec. 2. Section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph b,
 15 subparagraphs (2) and (3), Code 2017, are amended by striking
 16 the subparagraphs.

17 Sec. 3. Section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph c, Code
 18 2017, is amended to read as follows:

19 c. A requirement that all school districts and accredited
 20 nonpublic schools annually report to the department and the
 21 local community the district-wide progress made in attaining
 22 student achievement goals on the academic and other core
 23 indicators and the district-wide progress made in attaining
 24 locally established student learning goals. The school
 25 districts and accredited nonpublic schools shall demonstrate
 26 the use of multiple assessment measures in determining student
 27 achievement levels. The school districts and accredited
 28 nonpublic schools shall also report the number of students
 29 who graduate; the number of students who drop out of school;
 30 the number of students who are tested and the percentage of
 31 students who are so tested annually; and the percentage of
 32 students who graduated during the prior school year ~~and who~~
 33 ~~completed a core curriculum~~. The board shall develop and
 34 adopt uniform definitions consistent with the federal No Child
 35 Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. No. 107-110 and any federal

1 regulations adopted pursuant to the federal Act. The school
 2 districts and accredited nonpublic schools may report on other
 3 locally determined factors influencing student achievement.
 4 The school districts and accredited nonpublic schools shall
 5 also report to the local community their results by individual
 6 attendance center.

7 Sec. 4. Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph a,
 8 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2017, is amended to read as
 9 follows:

10 Adopt rules that establish ~~a core curriculum~~ and high school
 11 graduation requirements for all students in school districts
 12 and accredited nonpublic schools that include at a minimum
 13 satisfactory completion of four years of English and language
 14 arts, three years of mathematics, three years of science, and
 15 three years of social studies.

16 Sec. 5. Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph a,
 17 subparagraph (3), Code 2017, is amended by striking the
 18 subparagraph.

19 Sec. 6. Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraphs b and c,
 20 Code 2017, are amended by striking the paragraphs.

21 Sec. 7. Section 256.7, subsection 28, Code 2017, is amended
 22 to read as follows:

23 28. Adopt a set of ~~core content~~ assessment standards
 24 applicable to all students in kindergarten through grade twelve
 25 in every school district and accredited nonpublic school.
 26 For purposes of this subsection, ~~"core content "~~ "assessment
 27 standards" includes reading, mathematics, and science. The
 28 ~~core content standards shall be identical to the core content~~
 29 ~~standards included in Iowa's approved 2006 standards and~~
 30 ~~assessment system under Tit. I of the federal Elementary~~
 31 ~~and Secondary Education Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. §6301 et~~
 32 ~~seq., as amended by the federal No Child Left Behind Act of~~
 33 ~~2001, Pub. L. No. 107-110.~~ School districts and accredited
 34 nonpublic schools shall include, at a minimum, the ~~core content~~
 35 assessment standards adopted pursuant to this subsection in any

1 set of locally developed content standards. School districts
 2 and accredited nonpublic schools are strongly encouraged to set
 3 higher expectations in local standards. As changes in federal
 4 law or regulation occur, the state board is authorized to amend
 5 the ~~core content~~ assessment standards as appropriate.

6 Sec. 8. Section 256.9, subsection 49, paragraph a, Code
 7 2017, is amended to read as follows:

8 a. Develop and distribute, in collaboration with the area
 9 education agencies, ~~core curriculum~~ technical assistance and
 10 implementation strategies that school districts and accredited
 11 nonpublic schools ~~shall~~ may utilize, including but not limited
 12 to the development and delivery of formative and end-of-course
 13 model assessments classroom teachers may use to measure student
 14 progress ~~on the core curriculum adopted pursuant to section~~
 15 ~~256.7, subsection 26. The department shall, in collaboration~~
 16 ~~with the advisory group convened in accordance with paragraph~~
 17 ~~"b" and educational assessment providers, identify and make~~
 18 ~~available to school districts end-of-course and additional~~
 19 ~~model end-of-course and additional assessments to align with~~
 20 ~~the expectations included in the Iowa core curriculum. The~~
 21 ~~model assessments shall be suitable to meet the multiple~~
 22 ~~assessment measures requirement specified in section 256.7,~~
 23 ~~subsection 21, paragraph "c".~~

24 Sec. 9. Section 256.42, subsection 6, Code 2017, is amended
 25 to read as follows:

26 6. Coursework offered under the initiative shall be
 27 rigorous and high quality, and the department shall annually
 28 evaluate the quality of the courses and ensure that coursework
 29 is aligned with the ~~state's core curriculum and core content~~
 30 ~~requirements and~~ assessment standards adopted pursuant to
 31 section 256.7, subsection 28, as well as national standards
 32 of quality for online courses issued by an internationally
 33 recognized association for kindergarten through grade twelve
 34 online learning.

35 Sec. 10. Section 257.11, subsection 9, Code 2017, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2 9. *Shared classes and curriculum standards.* A school
3 district shall ensure that any course made available to a
4 student through any sharing agreement between the school
5 district and a community college or any other entity providing
6 course programming pursuant to [this section](#) to students
7 enrolled in the school district meets the expectations
8 contained in ~~the core curriculum adopted pursuant to~~ section
9 256.7, subsection 26. The school district shall ensure that
10 any course that has the capacity to generate college credit
11 shall be equivalent to college-level work.

12 Sec. 11. Section 260C.14, subsection 22, paragraph b, Code
13 2017, is amended to read as follows:

14 b. Collaborate with the state board of regents to meet
15 the requirements specified in [section 262.9, subsection 33](#),
16 including but not limited to developing a systematic process
17 for expanding academic discipline and meetings between the
18 community college faculty and faculty of the institutions
19 of higher education governed by the state board of regents,
20 ~~developing criteria to prioritize core curriculum areas,~~
21 promoting greater awareness of articulation-related activities,
22 facilitating additional opportunities for individual
23 institutions to pursue program articulation agreements for
24 career and technical educational programs, and developing
25 and implementing a process to examine a minimum of eight
26 new associate of applied science degree programs for which
27 articulation agreements would serve students' continued
28 academic success in those degree programs.

29 Sec. 12. Section 261E.9, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code
30 2017, is amended to read as follows:

31 b. A regional academy may include in its curriculum virtual
32 or internet-based coursework and courses delivered via the Iowa
33 communications network, career and technical courses, ~~core~~
34 ~~curriculum coursework,~~ courses required pursuant to section
35 256.7, subsection 26, or [section 256.11, subsections 4 and 5](#),

1 and asynchronous learning networks.

2 Sec. 13. Section 262.9, subsection 33, paragraph c, Code
3 2017, is amended by striking the paragraph.

4 Sec. 14. Section 279.61, subsection 1, paragraph a,
5 subparagraph (1), Code 2017, is amended to read as follows:

6 (1) Prepare the student for successful completion of the
7 ~~core curriculum developed~~ high school graduation requirements
8 adopted by the state board of education pursuant to section
9 256.7, subsection 26, by the time the student graduates from
10 high school.

11 Sec. 15. Section 279.61, subsection 2, Code 2017, is amended
12 to read as follows:

13 2. The board of directors of each school district shall
14 report annually to each student enrolled in grades nine through
15 twelve in the school district, and, if the student is under
16 the age of eighteen, to each student's parent or guardian, the
17 student's progress toward meeting the goal of successfully
18 completing the ~~core curriculum and~~ high school graduation
19 requirements adopted by the state board of education pursuant
20 to [section 256.7, subsection 26](#), and toward achieving the goals
21 of the student's career and academic plan.

22 Sec. 16. Section 280.3, subsection 2, Code 2017, is amended
23 to read as follows:

24 2. The minimum educational program shall be the ~~curriculum~~
25 graduation requirements set forth in ~~subsection 3 of this~~
26 section 256.7, subsection 26, and educational program set forth
27 in [section 256.11](#), except as otherwise provided by law. The
28 board of directors of a public school district shall not allow
29 discrimination in any educational program on the basis of race,
30 color, creed, sex, marital status, or place of national origin.

31 Sec. 17. Section 280.3, subsection 3, Code 2017, is amended
32 by striking the subsection.

33 DIVISION III

34 EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT

35 Sec. 18. EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT. This Act, being deemed

1 of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

2 EXPLANATION

3 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
4 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

5 This bill provides for the termination and elimination of
6 all plans, programs, activities, efforts, and expenditures
7 relating to implementation of the educational initiative
8 commonly referred to as the common core standards, or any
9 derivative or permutation of that educational initiative
10 including but not limited to the Iowa common core standards
11 that have been enacted, adopted, or implemented by the general
12 assembly, the state board of education, or the department
13 of education, including but not limited to any assessments,
14 data collection, and instructions based on or involving that
15 educational initiative.

16 DIVISION I — COMMON CORE STANDARDS PROHIBITED. The bill
17 establishes new Code section 256.25. The new Code section
18 prohibits the state board from adopting, aligning to, or
19 implementing any other national or multistate consortium
20 standards from any source requiring the use of any assessments
21 aligned with any other national or multistate consortium
22 standards from any source and requires the state board and
23 the department to respect and support the ultimate right of a
24 parent to opt the parent's child out of public school, and out
25 of any public school activity, practice, or testing that the
26 parent finds unacceptable, with no negative repercussions to,
27 or financial impact on, the child, parent, or school, and with
28 no interference from the state.

29 Also, by January 1, 2018, for the school year beginning
30 July 1, 2018, and each succeeding school year, the state board
31 and the department must adopt and implement state academic
32 content standards for kindergarten through grade twelve
33 (K-12) in English language arts, mathematics, science, and
34 social studies that are the same as the academic standards in
35 effect for the state of Massachusetts during the academic year

1 beginning July 1, 2008, except that any reference in those
2 standards to the state of Massachusetts shall be changed to
3 Iowa and any state history or government content standards
4 shall be changed to reflect the history and government of
5 Iowa. The department shall distribute the standards to school
6 districts and shall post the standards on the department's
7 internet site within 10 days following adoption of the state
8 academic content standards. At the same time, the state
9 board and the department must also adopt validated state
10 assessments of student achievement based on the assessment used
11 in Massachusetts during the 2008-2009 school year and aligned
12 to the academic standards in effect in Massachusetts during the
13 2008-2009 school year.

14 The bill directs the state board, the department, and the
15 director of the department, and any other state public employee
16 or authority to take all steps necessary to terminate areas of
17 federal control of the Iowa educational process; and prohibits
18 these entities from adopting or implementing any national
19 or multistate consortium standard from any source, or the
20 use of any assessments aligned with a national or multistate
21 consortium standard that cedes control of Iowa educational
22 standards in any manner; or from joining any consortium or
23 any other organization if participation in that consortium or
24 organization would cede any measure of control over any aspect
25 of Iowa public education to that consortium or organization.
26 This state shall retain sole control over the development,
27 establishment, and revision of course of study standards for
28 K-12.

29 After not less than five years and at the discretion of
30 the state board, the state board may adopt state academic
31 content standards to replace the standards that were based on
32 Massachusetts' standards. However, these replacement content
33 standards must be developed independently and not as part of a
34 multistate consortium. Such content standards shall emphasize
35 coherence, focus, and essential knowledge, have evidence of

1 successful application and results, and may be administered
2 using computer technology. The department shall not implement
3 the replacement content standards until the state board submits
4 the content standards to the general assembly, the general
5 assembly's standing committees on education hold a joint public
6 hearing on the proposed content standards and provide public
7 notice of the public hearing at least 10 days prior to the
8 public hearing; and the content standards are specifically
9 authorized by a constitutional majority of each house of the
10 general assembly and approved by the governor.

11 Each year, as soon as reasonably possible, the aggregated
12 results shall be available on the department internet site
13 for review by the public. In collecting student achievement
14 data for posting on the internet site, the department shall
15 not collect data about the values, attitudes, beliefs, and
16 personality traits of a student or the student's family or
17 medical, behavioral, mental, biometric, or psychometric data of
18 a student or of the student's family.

19 Prior to implementing the proposed state assessments, the
20 department must submit them to the general assembly, the
21 standing committees on education must hold a public hearing on
22 the proposed assessments and post notice of the hearing 10 days
23 prior to the hearing, and the general assembly and the governor
24 must specifically authorize the assessments in the same manner
25 as the state academic content standards.

26 School districts must establish a fundamental academic
27 curriculum for students enrolled in the school district in K-12
28 that defines academic objectives to be achieved by all students
29 and is based upon the school district's educational mission,
30 long-range student goals and student performance objectives,
31 and the state's graduation requirements. The fundamental
32 academic curriculum may vary from the state academic content
33 standards adopted pursuant to this section.

34 After consulting with the school district's teachers
35 and administrators, the district must determine the aligned

1 instructional program for delivering its fundamental academic
2 curriculum and identify the courses and programs in which the
3 fundamental academic curriculum will be taught.

4 School districts must provide adequate time and transparency
5 for public review and comment on the aligned instructional
6 programs by all interested members of the community before
7 final adoption of the fundamental academic curriculum.

8 New Code section 256.25 includes language providing that
9 the new Code section shall not be construed to promote any
10 religious or nonreligious doctrine, promote discrimination
11 for or against a particular set of religious beliefs or
12 nonbeliefs, or promote discrimination for or against religion
13 or nonreligion; and that the new Code section does not require
14 any school district to utilize all or any part of the academic
15 content standards adopted. The state board and the department
16 shall not impose any financial consequence on a school district
17 that adopts academic content standards differing from those
18 adopted and implemented under the new Code section.

19 DIVISION II — ELIMINATING COMMON CORE REFERENCES
20 — PROVIDING FOR RELATED MATTERS. The bill eliminates
21 requirements and references to the (Iowa) common core or
22 core curriculum and to core content standards, but continues
23 to direct the state board of education to adopt high school
24 graduation requirements and assessment standards.

25 Provisions directing school districts to cooperate with
26 each eighth grade student on a core curriculum plan to meet
27 core curriculum requirements are amended to replace "core
28 curriculum plan" with "graduation plan" and "core curriculum
29 requirements" with "high school graduation requirements". The
30 term "core content standards", which was used to describe the
31 assessment standards adopted by the state board, is replaced
32 with the term "assessment standards". The assessment standards
33 will remain applicable to all students in kindergarten through
34 grade 12 in every school district and accredited nonpublic
35 school. Corresponding changes are made throughout the Code,

1 and obsolete language is eliminated.

2 DIVISION III — EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT. The bill takes

3 effect upon enactment.